



NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ANCHORAGE WOMAN INDICTED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY
FOR EMBEZZLEMENT AND MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS**

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced that on December 13, 2007, Bernadine Dee Sponaugle of Anchorage, Alaska was indicted by a federal grand jury in Anchorage on one count of embezzlement from a health care benefit program and one count of making false statements in a matter related to a health care benefit program.

The two-count indictment named Sponaugle, 49, of Anchorage, as the sole defendant.

According to the indictment, Sponaugle, while employed in the accounting department of Geneva Woods Pharmacy, Inc., embezzled funds entrusted to her and falsified company records to conceal the embezzlement.

Assistant United States Attorney Daniel R. Cooper, Jr., who presented the case to the grand jury, indicated that the law provides for a maximum total sentence of ten years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, or both, plus restitution of the amount the court determines was embezzled. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed will be based upon the seriousness of the offenses and the prior criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

The Anchorage Police Department Financial Crimes Investigation Unit conducted the investigation leading to the indictment in this case with the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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